MARVEL COMICS
FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS PART TWO
the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
THE VULTURE'S NEXT VICTIM: AUNT MAY!
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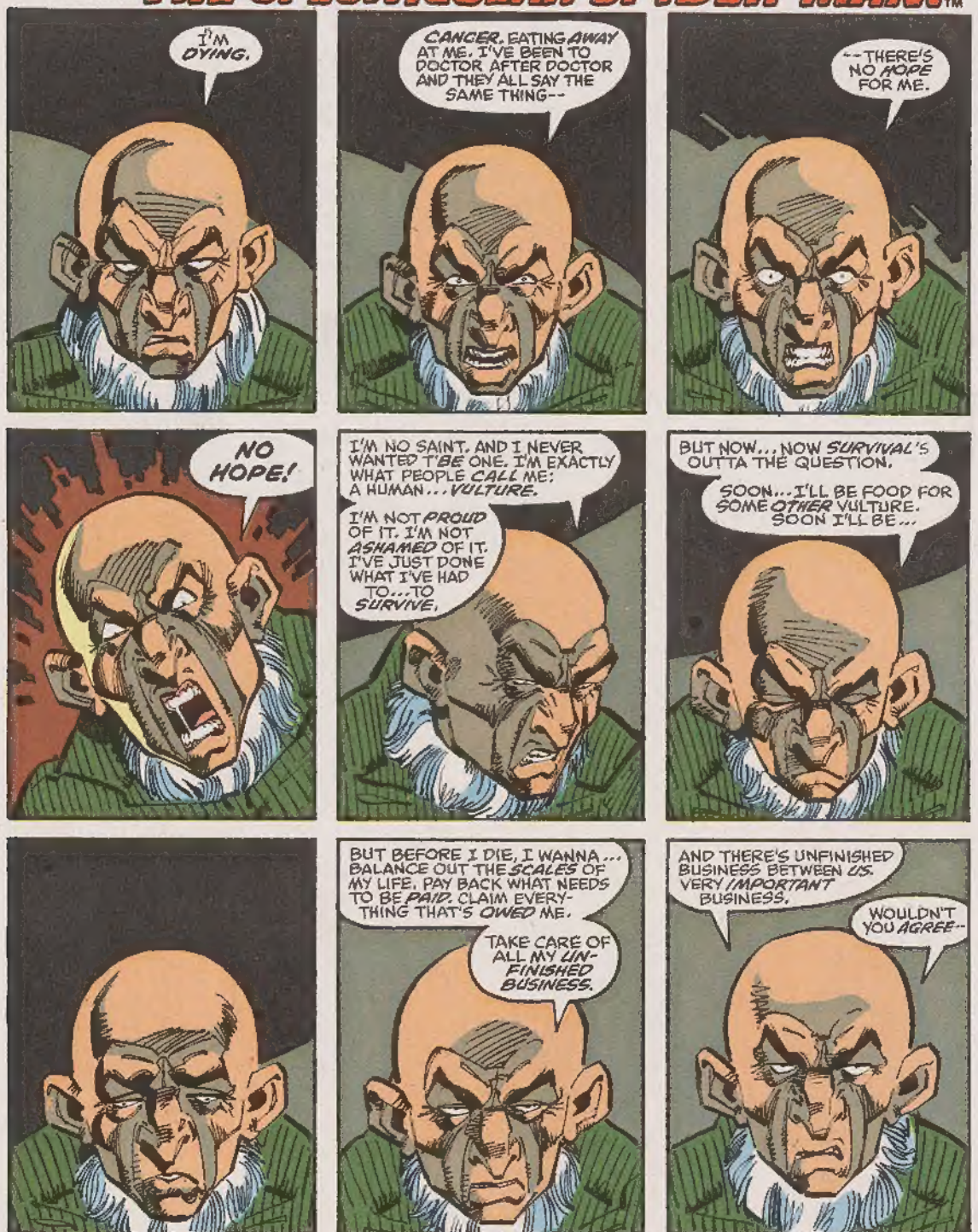
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™


I'M DYING.
CANCER, EATING AWAY AT ME. I'VE BEEN TO DOCTOR AFTER DOCTOR AND THEY ALL SAY THE SAME THING--
--THERE'S NO HOPE FOR ME.
NO HOPE!
I'M NO SAINT. AND I NEVER WANTED T'BE ONE. I'M EXACTLY WHAT PEOPLE CALL ME: A HUMAN... VULTURE.
I'M NOT PROUD OF IT. I'M NOT ASHAMED OF IT. I'VE JUST DONE WHAT I'VE HAD TO...TO SURVIVE.
BUT NOW... NOW SURVIVAL'S OUTTA THE QUESTION.
SOON... I'LL BE FOOD FOR SOME OTHER VULTURE. SOON I'LL BE...
BUT BEFORE I DIE, I WANNA... BALANCE OUT THE SCALES OF MY LIFE. PAY BACK WHAT NEEDS TO BE PAID. CLAIM EVERYTHING THAT'S OWED ME.
TAKE CARE OF ALL MY UNFINISHED BUSINESS.
AND THERE'S UNFINISHED BUSINESS BETWEEN US. VERY IMPORTANT BUSINESS.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE--

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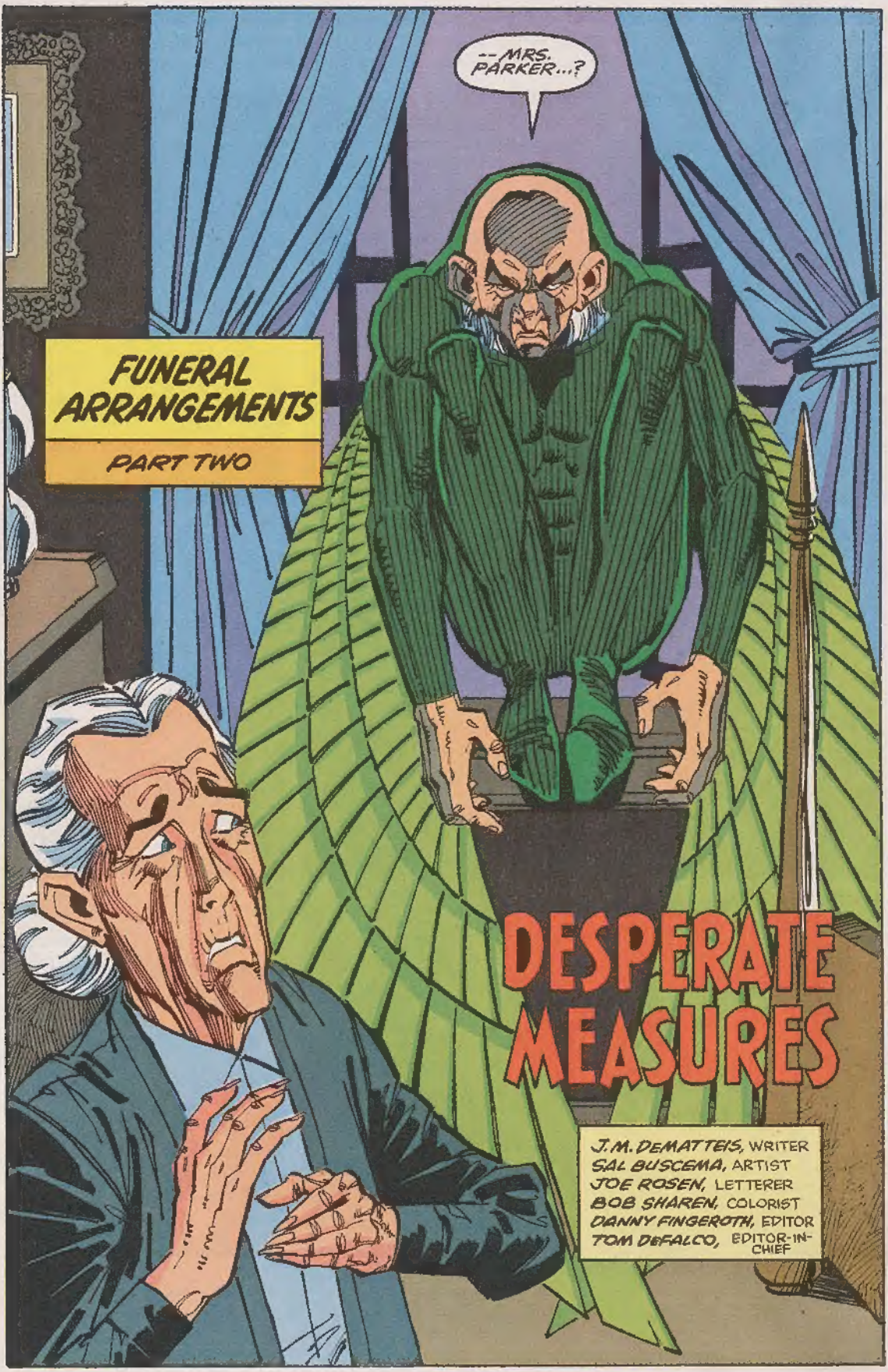
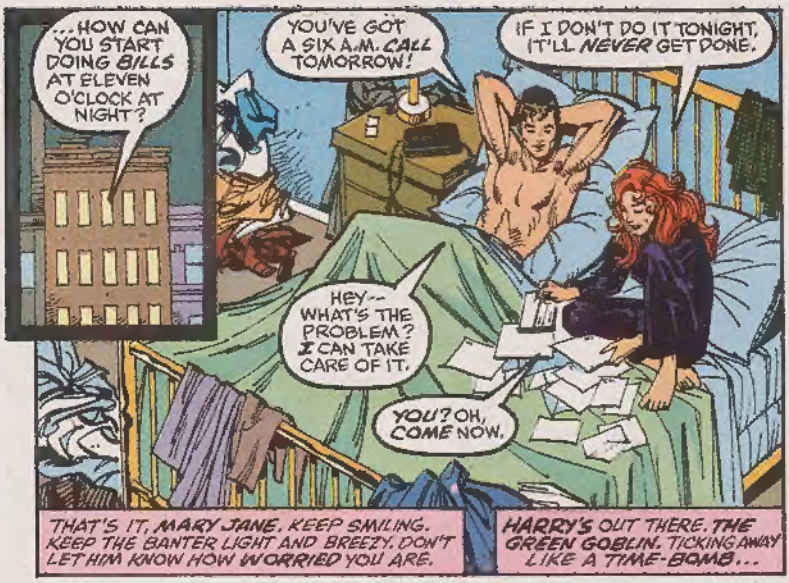

--MRS. PARKER...?
FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS
PART TWO
DESPERATE MEASURES
J.M. DEMATTEIS, WRITER
SAL BUSCEMA, ARTIST
JOE ROSEN, LETTERER
BOB SHAREN, COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH, EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

YOU AND I HAVE NO BUSINESS. YOU'RE A COMMON CRIMINAL. A MURDERER.
YOU KILLED MY NATHAN!
EXACTLY, MRS. PARKER. I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR NATHAN LUBENSKY'S DEATH*--
*IT HAPPENED IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #336. --DANNY
--AND I AM SO--
--SORRY.

WHEN I MET NATHAN AT THE HOSPITAL...I'D JUST ABOUT GIVEN *UP* ON LIFE.* I WAS A TIRED OLD MAN WITH NO HOPE, COULD'VE JUST LAID DOWN AND *DIED*.
BUT NATHAN... HE *TALKED* T'ME...*TOUCHED* SOMETHING IN ME THAT--
*IN AMAZING #224--DANNY
WELL, I FOUND THE STRENGTH TO GO ON LIVING. GO ON *FIGHTING*.
I COUNTED NATHAN AS MY *FRIEND*, MRS. PARKER. AND A MAN LIKE ME DOESN'T HAVE VERY MANY FRIENDS.
HIS DEATH--IT WAS AN *ACCIDENT*! I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT WAS *HIM* TILL I READ ABOUT IT IN THE PAPERS. IT JUST ABOUT BROKE MY HEART!
WHAT DO YOU *WANT*?
I...I CAN'T FACE MY *END* WITH THIS EATING AWAY AT ME... TEARING ME *APART*!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOUR *FORGIVENESS*, MRS. PARKER.
YOUR *FORGIVENESS*.
SMAK!

GET OUT OF MY HOUSE-- GET OUT OF HERE!
AND DON'T YOU EVER--
--EVER--
-- COME BACK!!

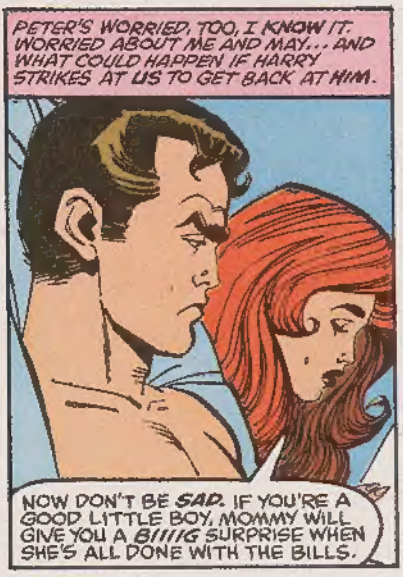

...HOW CAN YOU START DOING BILLS AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK AT NIGHT?
YOU'VE GOT A SIX A.M. CALL TOMORROW!
IF I DON'T DO IT TONIGHT, IT'LL NEVER GET DONE.
HEY--WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? I CAN TAKE CARE OF IT.
YOU? OH, COME NOW.
THAT'S IT, MARY JANE. KEEP SMILING. KEEP THE BANTER LIGHT AND BREEZY. DON'T LET HIM KNOW HOW WORRIED YOU ARE.
HARRY'S OUT THERE. THE GREEN GOBLIN. TICKING AWAY LIKE A TIME-BOMB...

PETER PARKER, EVERY TIME YOU'VE TRIED TO BALANCE OUR CHECKBOOK, I'VE HAD TO SPEND WEEKS UNDOING THE DAMAGE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU EVER GOT ALONG WITHOUT ME.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I MANAGED JUST FINE.
...JUST WAITING TO EXPLODE.

DON'T GET DEFENSIVE, SWEETIE. I CAN'T SPIN WEBS OR TAKE A DECENT PHOTOGRAPH--BUT YOU DON'T HEAR ME COMPLAINING.
NOW YOU JUST STICK TO WHAT YOU DO BEST--AND LEAVE THE FAMILY FINANCES TO ME.
MY GOD--SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, SHE'S SEXY, SHE'S A GREAT ACTRESS, AND SHE CAN BALANCE A CHECKBOOK!

I'M MARRIED TO THE PERFECT WOMAN!

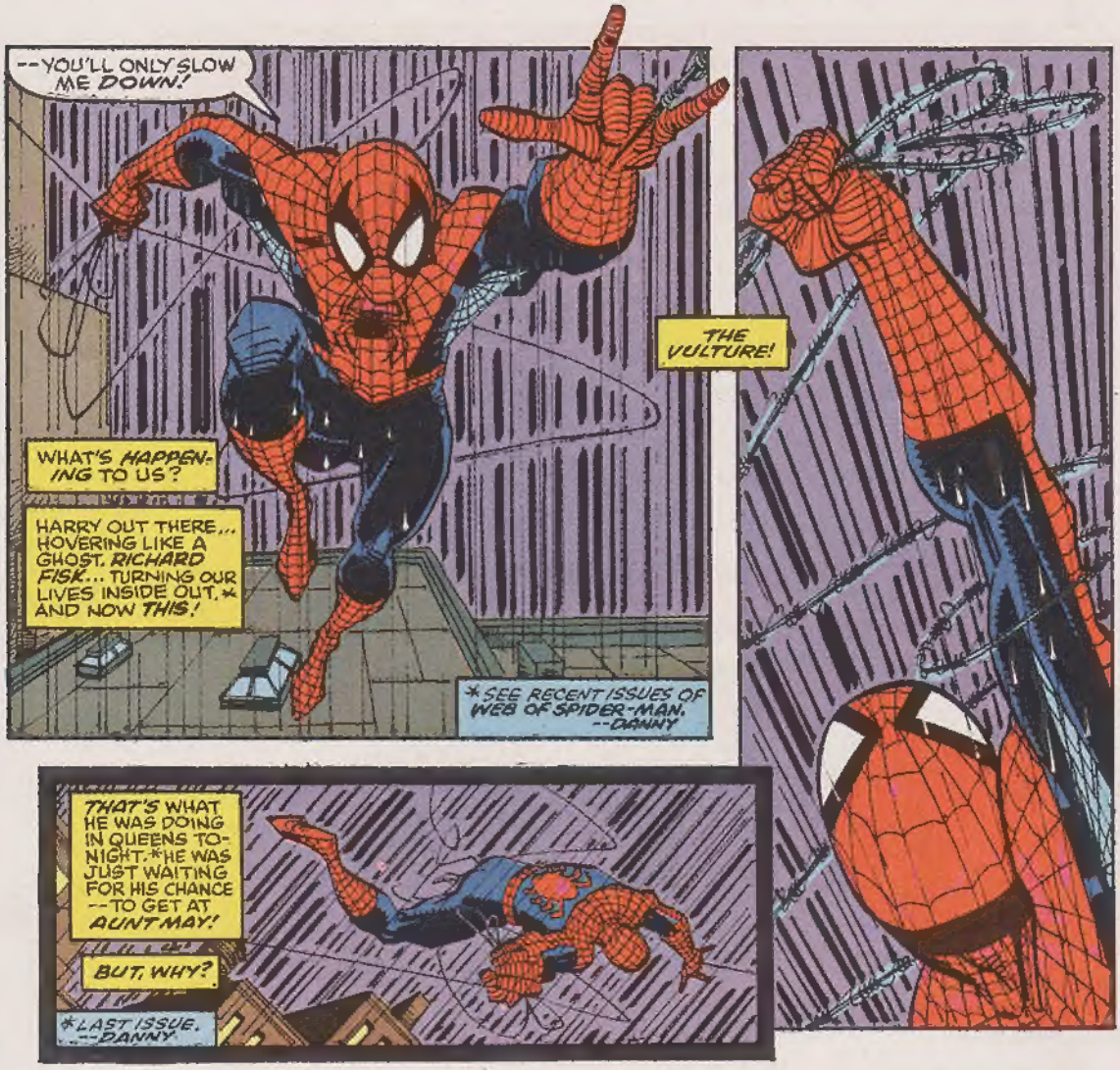
HOLD IT, DON JUAN--
--IF I GET DISTRACTED NOW, WE'RE LIKELY TO END UP IN DEBTOR'S PRISON.


PETER'S WORRIED, TOO, I KNOW IT. WORRIED ABOUT ME AND MAY... AND WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF HARRY STRIKES AT US TO GET BACK AT HIM.
NOW DON'T BE SAD. IF YOU'RE A GOOD LITTLE BOY, MOMMY WILL GIVE YOU A BIIIIG SURPRISE WHEN SHE'S ALL DONE WITH THE BILLS.

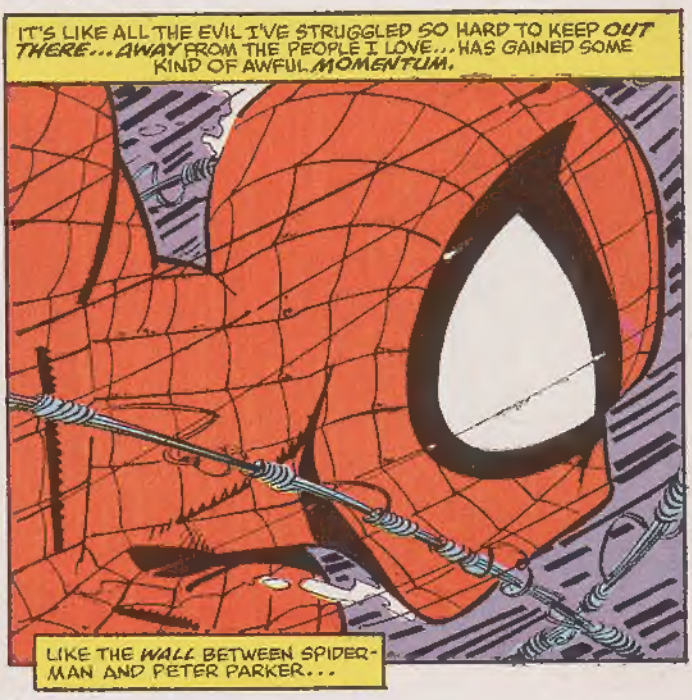
HOW BIG?
VERY BIG.
THAT'S WHY I'VE GOT TO KEEP UP A GOOD FRONT. HE CAN'T--
RINNNG RINNNG RINNNG

WELL...ARE YOU GONNA ANSWER IT--OR ARE YOU JUST GOING TO SIT THERE POUTING ALL NIGHT?
I'VE GOT IT, I'VE GOT IT.

PETER PARKER, NEW YORK'S FRUSTRATED PHOTOGRAPHER, AT YOUR SERVI--
AUNT MAY?
AUNT MAY, SLOW DOWN... I CAN'T UNDERSTA--
OH, NO.
WHAT?!
OH, NO!
NO...NO...YOU JUST STAY THERE! I'M COMING RIGHT OVER!
IT NEVER ENDS--
--DOES IT?!
WHAT IS IT, HON? WHAT'S WRONG?
RRAKKK
WHY AM I PRETENDING? I KNOW WHAT IT IS.
IT'S AUNT MAY! HE... HE CAME TO HER HOUSE TONIGHT!
TO HER HOUSE!!
OH, GOD, I HOPE SHE'S NOT HURT! PLEASE DON'T LET HER BE HURT!
WHO, PETER?
WHO CAME TO HER HOUSE?!
MAYBE I'M WRONG. MAYBE IT'S NOT HARRY. MAY'S HIGH STRUNG, SHE GETS PANICKED OVER LITTLE THINGS SOMETIMES. MAYBE IT'S JUST--
THE VULTURE.
THE VULTURE?
GIVE ME A MINUTE TO GET DRESSED. I'M COMING WITH YOU--
THE VULTURE?!
NO--


--YOU'LL ONLY SLOW ME DOWN!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?
HARRY OUT THERE... HOVERING LIKE A GHOST. RICHARD FISK... TURNING OUR LIVES INSIDE OUT, * AND NOW THIS!
* SEE RECENT ISSUES OF WEB OF SPIDER-MAN. --DANNY
THE VULTURE!
THAT'S WHAT HE WAS DOING IN QUEENS TONIGHT.* HE WAS JUST WAITING FOR HIS CHANCE --TO GET AT AUNT MAY!
BUT, WHY?
* LAST ISSUE. --DANNY

IT'S THE GOBLIN--IT'S GOT TO BE! HE PUT THE VULTURE UP TO THIS! MAYBE HAD A LITTLE AUCTION-- SOLD OFF SPIDER-MAN'S IDENTITY TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER--!
I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK THESE PAST WEEKS... AFRAID THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. M.J. TOO. SHE KEEPS UP THAT CHEERFUL FRONT--BUT I KNOW HOW UPSET SHE'S BEEN.
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?!


IT'S LIKE ALL THE EVIL I'VE STRUGGLED SO HARD TO KEEP OUT THERE... AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE I LOVE... HAS GAINED SOME KIND OF AWFUL MOMENTUM.
LIKE THE WALL BETWEEN SPIDER-MAN AND PETER PARKER...

...HAS COME CRASHING DOWN.
KR
ASSH!
EVENING, JAMESON.
GET OUT OF HERE-- BEFORE I CALL THE POLICE.
DAILY BUGLE
I THINK NOT.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME, VULTURE, I SAID--
LOSE THE MACHO POSTURING. I HAVEN'T GOT THE TIME.
I TERRIFY YOU, JAMESON. YOU KNOW IT, I KNOW IT. AND THAT'S NOTHING T'BE ASHAMED OF.
BECAUSE I'M A VERY NASTY PIECE O' WORK--
--AND I'D KILL YOU IN A SECOND.
DROP DEAD.

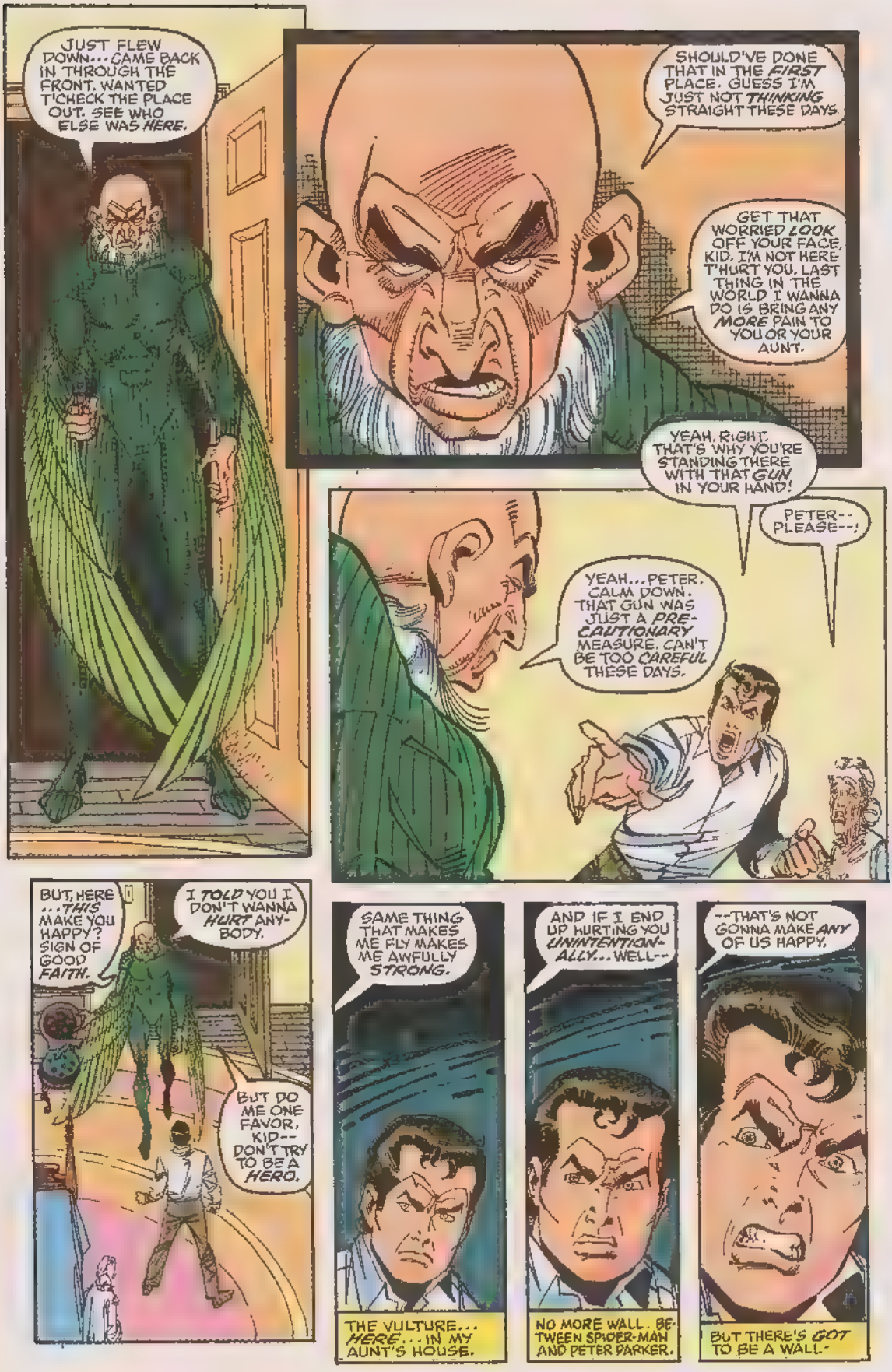
DROP?
DEAD?
GOOD IDEA.
NOOOOOO!!
DON'T KILL ME! DON'T KILL ME!
THAT'S BETTER. GOOD HEALTHY FEAR.
WH-WHADDAYOU WANT? ANYTHING! ANYTHING!
THE HEADLINE OF TOMORROW'S BUGLE. A...PROCLAMATION FOR THE WORLD.
I WANT YOU TO ANNOUNCE MY INTENTION TO KILL SPIDER-MAN.
N-NO PROBLEM ...IF THERE'S ANY-THING I CAN DO T'HELP...I-LET ME KNOW!
YOU DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND, JAMESON.
HEY, YOU-- PUT THAT MAN DOWN!
YEAH-- DROP 'IM!
NO... DON'T DROP ME! DON'T DROP ME!
HE'S ALL YOURS, GENTS!
BUT, JAMESON, GET THIS STRAIGHT: THIS ISN'T A THREAT. IT ISN'T A GAME. SPIDER-MAN IS GOING TO DIE... VERY PUBLICLY, VERY BRUTALLY... BY MY HAND.
MORE THAN ANYONE IN MY LIFE... HE OWES ME. AND HE'S GOING TO PAY.
FOR THE YEARS OF HUMILIATION. FOR ALL THE PAIN. THE SCALES ARE GONNA BE BALANCED. HE'S GOING TO PAY.
AND IF YOU EVEN THINK OF CROSSING ME --
--SO WILL YOU
WELL-- DON'T JUST LAY THERE LIKE A COUPLE OF QUIVERING LUMPS OF JELLO--
--HELP ME UP!!

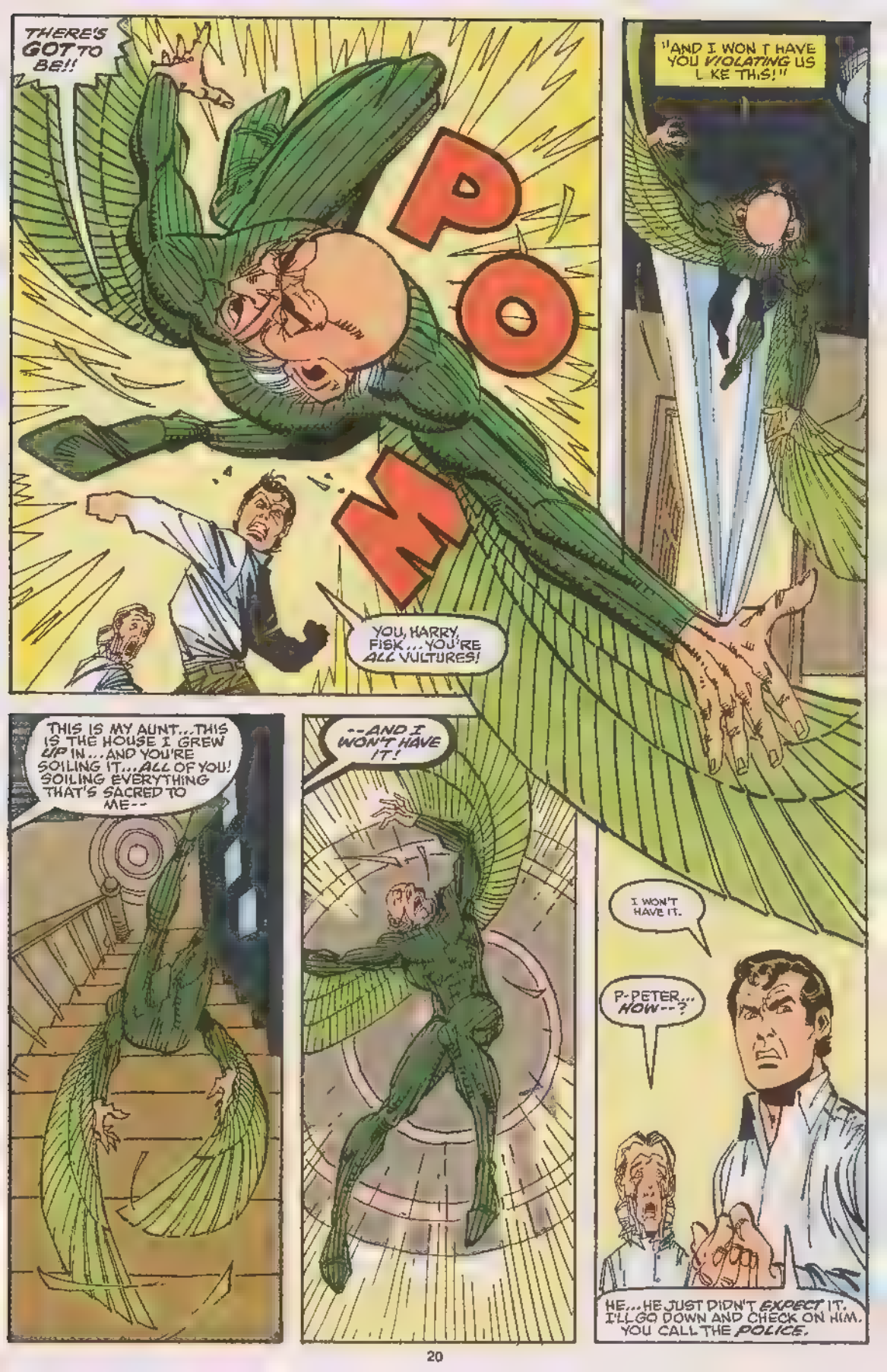
AUNT MAY...?
AUNT MAY!
IN HERE, PETER.
AUNT MAY... I WAS SO WORRIED! I... I GOT HERE AS SOON AS I COULD! OH, GOD, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO IF ANYTHING EVER HAPPENED TO--
I'M... ALL RIGHT
BUT YOU'RE SHAKING.
I'M ALL RIGHT. HE FRIGHTENED ME, THAT'S ALL
WHAT DID HE WANT? DID HE SAY ANYTHING? DID HE--
HE SAID HE WANTED--
-- MY FORGIVENESS.
WHAT?!
HE SAID HE WAS SORRY FOR WHAT HE DID. FOR KILLING NATHAN.
NATHAN? THAT DIDN'T EVEN OCCUR TO ME! I THOUGHT HE WAS HERE BECAUSE OF--
BE-CAUSE OF WHAT?
NOTHING. GO ON.
HE SAID HE WAS DYING OF CANCER. AND HE WANTED ME TO FORGIVE HIM. AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT, PETER? FOR A SECOND THERE...
...I ALMOST DID.

BUT I THINK I'M TOO OLD TO FORGIVE ANY MORE. I'VE BEEN THROUGH TOO MUCH.
TOO MANY VULTURES CIRCLING AROUND ME,.. PECKING AWAY AT THE PEOPLE I LOVE.
I THINK MY HEART IS DEAD, PETER. COLD. A PIECE OF IT DIED WITH YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER. ANOTHER WITH YOUR UNCLE BEN.
AND I THINK THE FINAL PIECE DIED... WITH NATHAN.
MAYBE I DIED WITH NATHAN, TOO... BUT I'VE JUST BEEN TOO STUPID TO REALIZE IT--
--TILL NOW.

AUNT MAY--?!!

PEEEE-TERRRR!!
AUNT MAY!
NO...NOT AGAIN! NOT LIKE UNCLE BEN!
NOT AGAIN!
AUNT MAY, ARE YOU--?
...HE...
HE WAS HERE.
BUT.. WHEN HE HEARD YOU COMING... THE WINDOW ... HE--
HE'S GONE. HE MUST HAVE--
NOT GONE YET, PARKER.


JUST FLEW DOWN... CAME BACK IN THROUGH THE FRONT. WANTED T'CHECK THE PLACE OUT. SEE WHO ELSE WAS *HERE*.
SHOULD'VE DONE THAT IN THE *FIRST* PLACE. GUESS I'M JUST NOT *THINKING* STRAIGHT THESE DAYS.
GET THAT WORRIED *LOOK* OFF YOUR FACE, KID. I'M NOT HERE T'HURT YOU. LAST THING IN THE WORLD I WANNA DO IS BRING ANY *MORE* PAIN TO YOU OR YOUR AUNT.
YEAH, RIGHT. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE STANDING THERE WITH THAT *GUN* IN YOUR HAND!
PETER-- PLEASE--!
YEAH... PETER, CALM DOWN. THAT GUN WAS JUST A *PRE-CAUTIONARY* MEASURE. CAN'T BE TOO *CAREFUL* THESE DAYS.
BUT, HERE ...*THIS* MAKE YOU HAPPY? SIGN OF GOOD *FAITH*.
I *TOLD* YOU I DON'T WANNA *HURT* ANY-BODY.
BUT DO ME ONE FAVOR, KID-- DON'T TRY TO BE A *HERO*.
SAME THING THAT MAKES ME FLY MAKES ME AWFULLY *STRONG*.
THE VULTURE... *HERE*... IN MY AUNT'S HOUSE.
AND IF I END UP HURTING YOU *UNINTENTION-ALLY*... WELL--
NO MORE WALL.. BE-TWEEN SPIDER-MAN AND PETER PARKER.
--THAT'S NOT GONNA MAKE *ANY* OF US HAPPY.
BUT THERE'S *GOT* TO BE A WAY-


THERE'S GOT TO BE!!
POW
YOU, HARRY, FISK... YOU'RE ALL VULTURES!
"AND I WON'T HAVE YOU VIOLATING US LIKE THIS!"
THIS IS MY AUNT...THIS IS THE HOUSE I GREW UP IN...AND YOU'RE SOILING IT...ALL OF YOU! SOILING EVERYTHING THAT'S SACRED TO ME--
--AND I WON'T HAVE IT!
I WON'T HAVE IT.
P-PETER... HOW--?
HE...HE JUST DIDN'T EXPECT IT. I'LL GO DOWN AND CHECK ON HIM. YOU CALL THE POLICE.

GOTTA GET A GRIP. STUNT LIKE THAT COULD'VE BLOWN MY DOUBLE ENTITY FOR SURE.
VULTURE DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING I SAID... AND AUNT MAY'S SO SHAKEN... BUT I CAN'T LET THIS SHAKE ME.
MORE THAN EVER ...I'VE GOT TO KEEP THAT WALL BETWEEN MY TWO LIVES STRONG. CAN'T LET ANYONE ELSE EVEN SUSPECT THAT--
UH-OH! THERE GOES MY SPIDER-SENSE AGAIN!
HE'S MAKING HIS MOVE...
...AND PETER PARKER'S GOTTA LET HIM!
LUCKY PUNCH, KID. LOOKS LIKE YOUR HEALTH CLUB MEMBERSHIP PAID OFF.
BUT YOUR LUCK'S GONNA RUN OUT... FAST... IF YOU TRY THAT AGAIN.
LISTEN TO ME, VULTURE--
NO... YOU LISTEN TIME! I DIDN'T COME HERE FOR A FIGHT! I CAME HERE BECAUSE--
LET HIM GO.
???!!!
LET HIM GO--
--AND GET OUT OF MY HOUSE.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi Heroes!

Remember this date — October '91! It was one of the biggest, most important months in the halcyon history of mighty Marvel! What made it so important? Hey, I thought you'd never ask!

In previous Soapboxes I gave you a number of hints about big things happening out here in Hollywood, big things that I wasn't free to talk about until the contracts were signed and the deals were closed. Well, it's now official! The biggest movie project we've ever planned is now under way — and if you guessed SPIDER-MAN, then award yourself a twelve-cylinder no-prize with fuel injection!

But here's the most exciting part — guess who's gonna write, direct, and produce the first ever big-budget, feature film of the world's most famous wall-crawler? Wouldja believe James Cameron?!! That's right, Bunky, the same fabulous, super-fantastic filmmaker who bestowed upon a wildly cheering, wide eyed world such monster hits as ALIENS, THE ABYSS and the two titanic TERMINATOR thrillers! So you can take this to the bank, Believer — SPIDER-MAN is destined to be the biggest, boldest, baaaaadest blockbustin' bombshell of a super hero action extravaganza ever to hit the screen!

Now then, before you start bombarding us with letters and phone calls asking who's gonna star in our fabulous forthcoming flick, or who the villain will be, let me advise you that those decisions haven't yet been made. First, the story has to be structured and then a screenplay written. That will probably take months because we're determined to make it the greatest action thriller of all. But as soon as more info comes through, even faster than you can wiggle your webs you'll get the scoop via the ol' Soapbox column as well as in the various newsletters we'll be sending to all the Wild Agents of Marvel!

And next issue, on this very same page, if Irving Forbush doesn't elope with Aunt May in the next thirty days, I'll bring you some additional exciting news about X-MEN hitting the screen! Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Awesome Announcements?!!

Excelsior!

Stan

Stan Lee

FOR THE NEXT NINE PARAGRAPHS, WE WILL BE CONDUCTING A TEST OF THE EMERGENCY BULLPEN SYSTEM. THIS IS ONLY A TEST. ALL YOU WILL NEED IS AN INSATIABLE, ALL-CONSUMING, ALMOST OBSESSIVE CURIOSITY ABOUT ALL THINGS MARVEL. READY ... BEGIN!

February is the shortest month, so that means we'll make this column as short as possible, and try to write it in the shortest amount of time. Actually, this is a leap year — does that mean we should skip over the page this month? (The preceding joke sponsored by the One Bad Joke Per Bullpen Page Committee.)

Some new faces have appeared on staff since our last column, and most have had bodies to go along with them, as Marvel is not in the habit of hiring detached faces. (Except over in the HELLRAISER office, where they encourage that kind of thing.) New to the editorial staff are **Hildy Mesnik**, who will be taking over G.I. JOE and the BARBIE titles. (Does this mean G.I. Joe will finally get to ask out Barbie?) Hildy won the assignment over many of our male editors, who were eager to play with Barbie, even if only twice a month.

Assisting Hildy is **Kevin Kobasic** — a natural choice, as he was previously assistant to **Don Daley** on the PUNISHER books. Kevin brings to the BARBIE titles his experience working with hard-nosed characters (relax, Don, we're not talking about you), and perhaps can give BARBIE that edge she needs to succeed in today's competitive comics field. Replacing Kev in Don's office is **Tim Tuohy**, formerly Don's college intern.

Also moving up in the world, like three-day old cream in a cup of coffee, is MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE assistant editor, **Mike Lackey.** Mike is now a full-fledged staff member. Mike was only half-fledged before, so now the rest of us can stop staring and pointing. Mike is also the writer of the new WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING comic which debuts this month, and claims his dream is to have the WCW champion hit him over the head with a steel chair. Keep dreaming, Mike. It'll happen someday.

Our own dream is to make it all the way to the end of the new *Spider-Man* arcade game from Sega! The game is a lot of fun, pitting Spider-Man, the Black Cat, and the Sub-Mariner against many of Spidey's deadliest foes, including the Hobgoblin, the Scorpion, and Venom. (Watch out for Venom — he cheats!) Also out now in arcades everywhere is a *Captain America and the Avengers* game, featuring not only Cap, but also Iron Man, the Vision, and Hawkeye against some of their greatest antagonists, such as the Mandarin and the Red Skull. Both games feature state of the art graphics, and are great for improving your eye-hand coordination, in case you want to become test pilots some day!

But don't spend your last quarter yet — coming your way real soon is the all-new *X-Men* arcade game from Konami. The X-Men game promises to be our best game yet, featuring all your favorite merry mixed-up mutants clashing and cavorting in all their glory. You also won't want to miss the Wolverine vs. Magneto hand-held game in the works, and it'll be out later this year. It's the most fun you can have without losing an eye!

And using our collective one good eye, let's look back at the Marvel Halloween party from last year. As we write these words, our teeth are still stained with Halloween candy from the big Marvel Halloween bash, which we, being traditional Marvel Zombies, like to hold once a year. The highlight of the bash is, as always, our wacky Marvelympics, in which all your favorite Marveloids go at it, tooth and claw.

The big winner this year was SHIELD inker **Don Hudson**, who was the loudest screamer, and stuffed the most candy corn in his mouth. Don was defeated, however, in the big musical chairs competition by Epic assistant editor **Tom Daning**. Noted Tom, "I've got the fastest cheeks in the west!" Tom's boss **Marcus McLaurin** also scored a victory in the "draw a caricature of a fellow employee" contest. Marc drew **Jim Salicrup**, which is actually not as hard as it looks.

Best costumes at the party included NOMAD editor **Glenn Herdling**'s Venom, and Glenn's assistant **Pat Garrahy** as Terminator 2. Assistant Editor **Evan Skolnick** came as DEATHLOK-editor **Tom Brevoort**, and no one could tell them apart! Even though it's only February, it's still not too early to start thinking about this year's Halloween bash. After all, February *is* the shortest month.

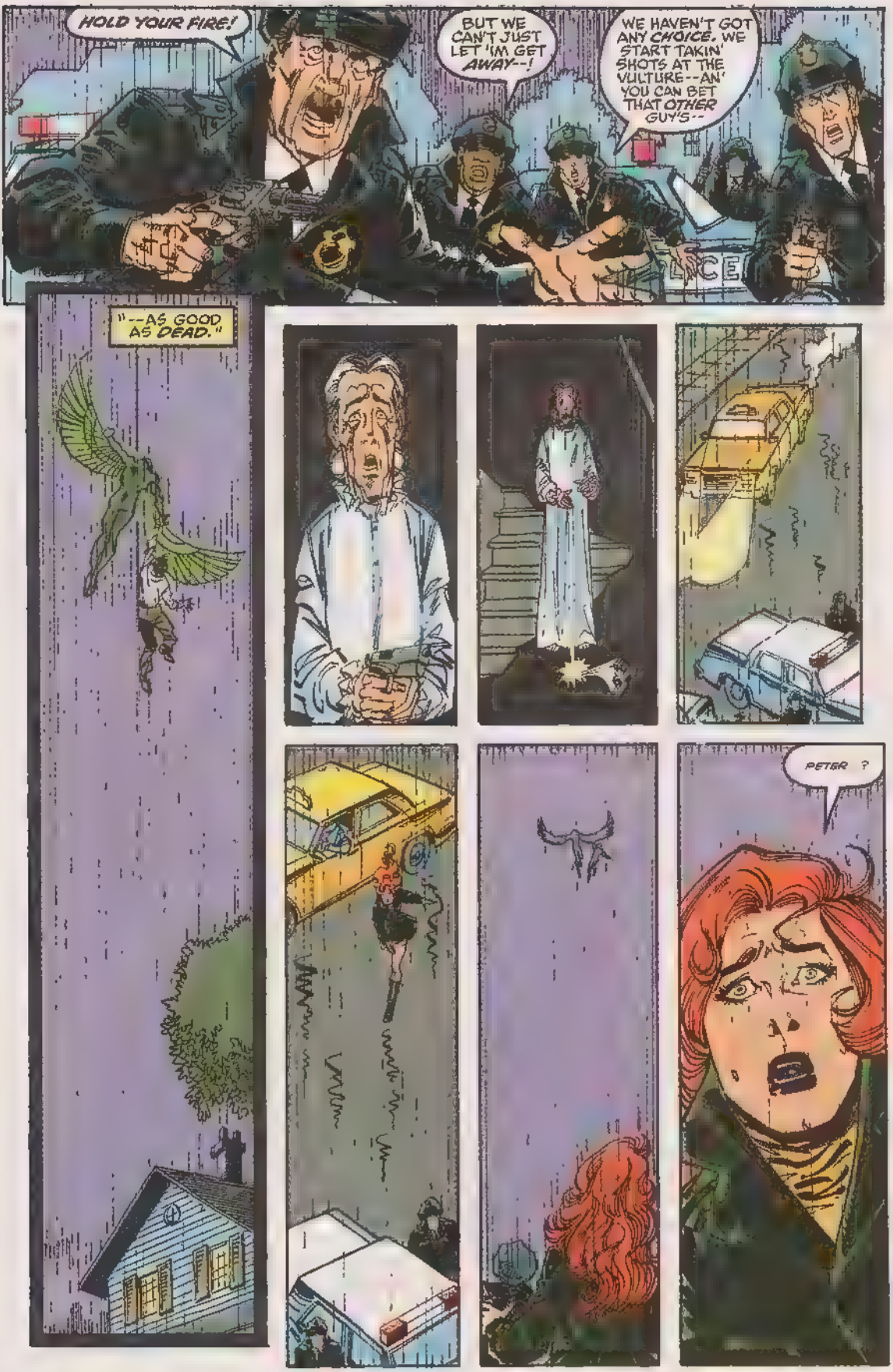
THIS CONCLUDES OUR TEST OF THE EMERGENCY BULLPEN PAGE SYSTEM. THIS WAS ONLY A TEST. HAD THIS BEEN AN ACTUAL EMERGENCY, YOUR SPIDER-SENSE WOULD HAVE STARTED TINGLING, YOUR PULSE WOULD HAVE STARTED POUNDING, AND YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPELLED TO SING THE THEME SONG FOR **WAM**, THE NEW MARVEL FAN CLUB!

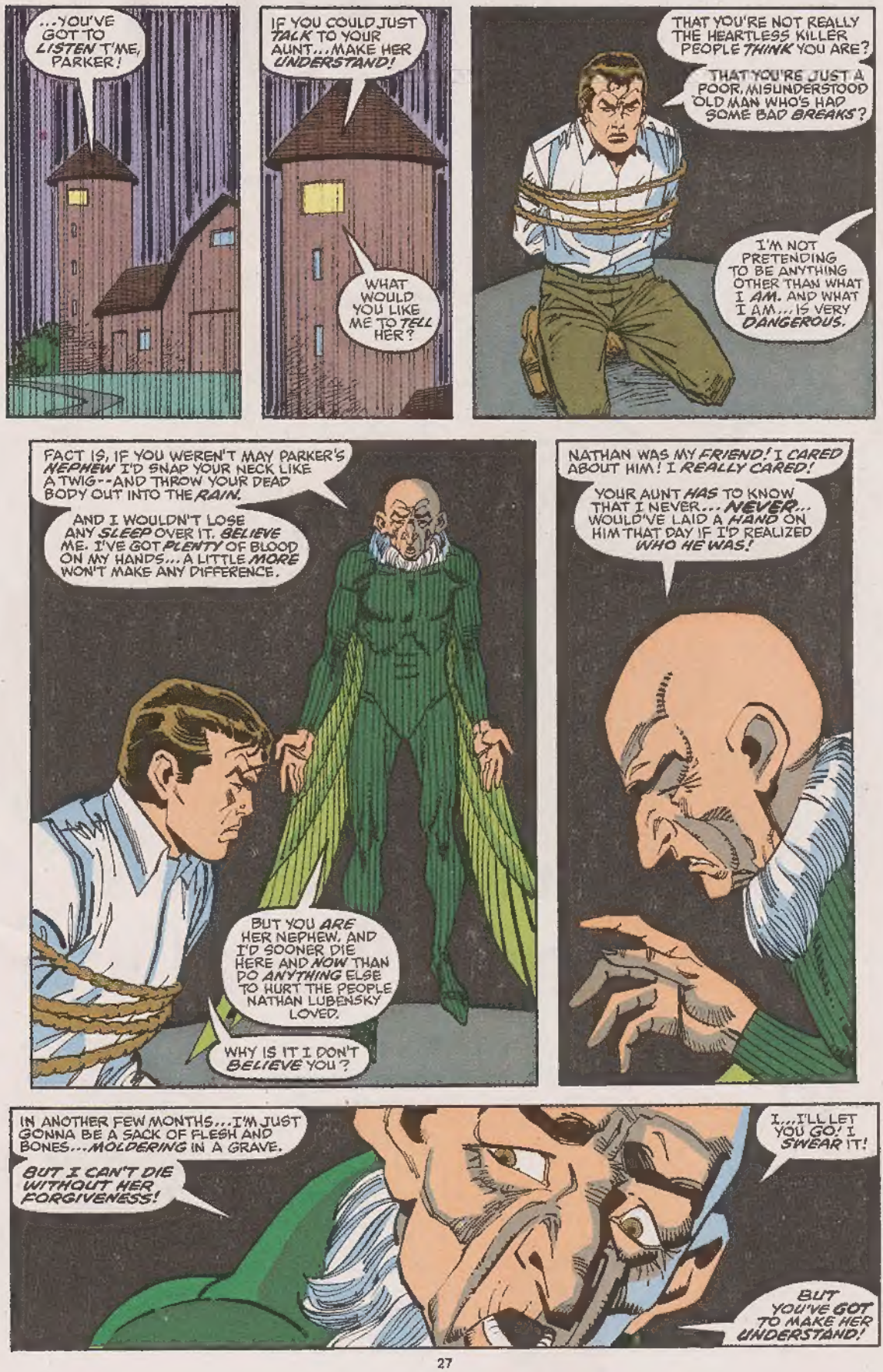
FEBRUARY COOLOMETER

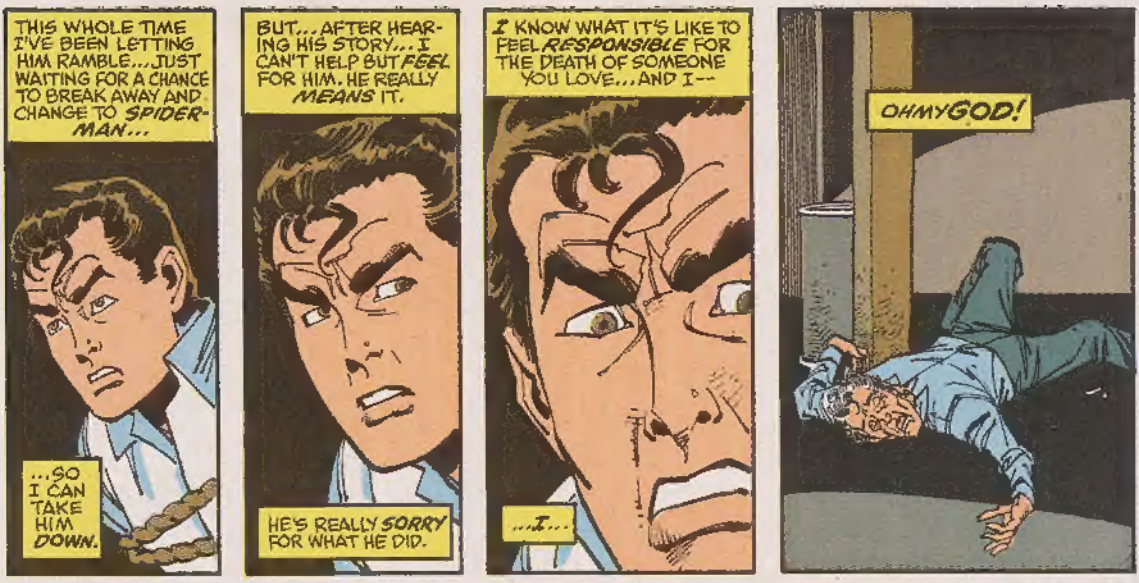
HOW THE BULLPEN WAS BUZZING ABOUT LAST NOVEMBER

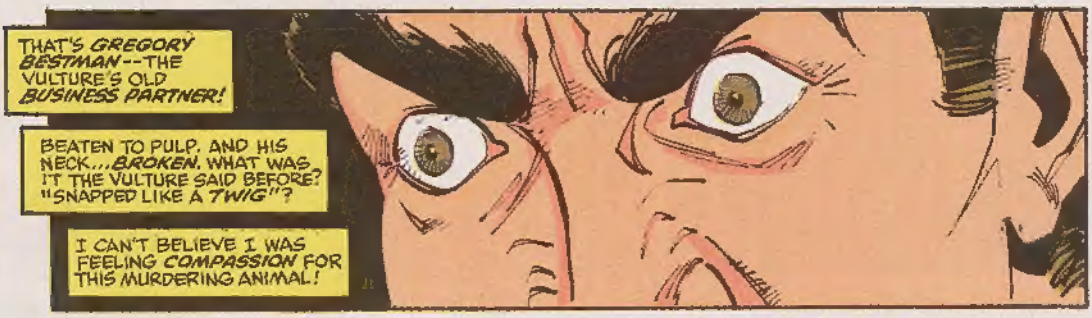
- GENE RODDENBERRY
- *NIGHT AFTER NIGHT*
- FREED HOSTAGES
- LUMPY ADDAMS
- FASHION STATEMENTS
- MAGIC JOHNSON
- HOLOGRAMS ON COVERS
- FRED MacMURRAY
- MOVIES IN IMAX
- SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION
- DATING AGAINST TYPE
- MICHAEL JACKSON'S *DANGEROUS*
- THAT NASHVILLE SOUND
- MICROWAVE FOOD
- STONE-WASH JEANS
- ABSENTEEISM
- JOHN HUGHES MOVIES
- THE RECESSION
- BELLYBUTTON LINT

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU... HURTING MY FAMILY... BREAKING OUR HEARTS... OVER AND OVER.
SICK... AND TIRED.
NOW LET MY NEPHEW GO--
--AND GET OUT.
I'VE REALLY BOTCHED IT, HAVEN'T I?
I CAME TO WASH AWAY THE PAIN OF THE PAST... AND WOUNDED YOU EVEN MORE IN THE BARGAIN. THIS HAS BEEN... A FOOL'S ERRAND FROM THE START. I SEE THAT NOW.
I'LL... DO WHAT YOU ASK. I'LL GO--AND I WON'T COME--
WEEOOOWEEOOOWEE
NO!!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO CALL THEM?! WHY?!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I CAN'T BE STOPPED NOW! MY WORK ISN'T DONE! MY FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS AREN'T COMPLETE!
THERE'S STILL SPIDER-MAN TO BE TAKEN CARE OF!
I'M VERY SORRY, MRS. PARKER-- VERY SORRY-- BUT, IN ORDER TO LEAVE HERE WITH A MINIMUM OF TROUBLE, I'M GOING TO NEED--
-A HOSTAGE!
RAKKKK!
WELCOME


HOLD YOUR FIRE!
BUT WE CAN'T JUST LET 'IM GET AWAY--!
WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY CHOICE. WE START TAKIN' SHOTS AT THE VULTURE--AN' YOU CAN BET THAT OTHER GUY'S--
"--AS GOOD AS DEAD."
PETER ?

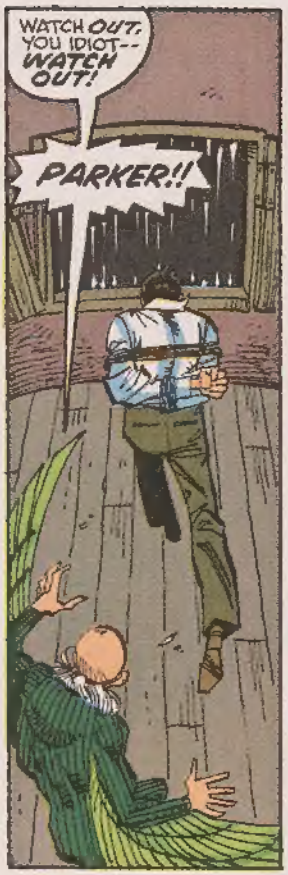

...YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN T'ME, PARKER!
IF YOU COULD JUST TALK TO YOUR AUNT...MAKE HER UNDERSTAND!
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TELL HER?
THAT YOU'RE NOT REALLY THE HEARTLESS KILLER PEOPLE THINK YOU ARE?
THAT YOU'RE JUST A POOR, MISUNDERSTOOD OLD MAN WHO'S HAD SOME BAD BREAKS?
I'M NOT PRETENDING TO BE ANYTHING OTHER THAN WHAT I AM. AND WHAT I AM...IS VERY DANGEROUS.
FACT IS, IF YOU WEREN'T MAY PARKER'S NEPHEW I'D SNAP YOUR NECK LIKE A TWIG--AND THROW YOUR DEAD BODY OUT INTO THE RAIN.
AND I WOULDN'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER IT. BELIEVE ME. I'VE GOT PLENTY OF BLOOD ON MY HANDS...A LITTLE MORE WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.
BUT YOU ARE HER NEPHEW, AND I'D SOONER DIE HERE AND NOW THAN DO ANYTHING ELSE TO HURT THE PEOPLE NATHAN LUBENSKY LOVED.
WHY IS IT I DON'T BELIEVE YOU?
NATHAN WAS MY FRIEND! I CARED ABOUT HIM! I REALLY CARED!
YOUR AUNT HAS TO KNOW THAT I NEVER... NEVER... WOULD'VE LAID A HAND ON HIM THAT DAY IF I'D REALIZED WHO HE WAS!
IN ANOTHER FEW MONTHS...I'M JUST GONNA BE A SACK OF FLESH AND BONES...MOLDERING IN A GRAVE.
BUT I CAN'T DIE WITHOUT HER FORGIVENESS!
I...I'LL LET YOU GO! I SWEAR IT!
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE HER UNDERSTAND!


THIS WHOLE TIME I'VE BEEN LETTING HIM RAMBLE... JUST WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO BREAK AWAY AND CHANGE TO SPIDER-MAN...
...SO I CAN TAKE HIM DOWN.
BUT... AFTER HEARING HIS STORY... I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL FOR HIM. HE REALLY MEANS IT.
HE'S REALLY SORRY FOR WHAT HE DID.
I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF SOMEONE YOU LOVE... AND I--
...I...
OHMYGOD!

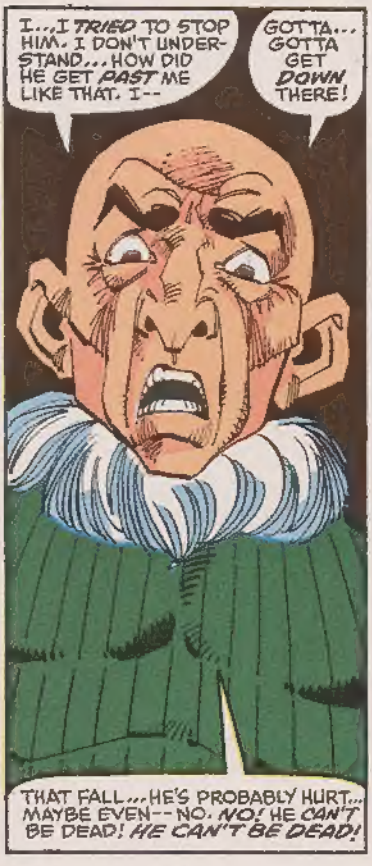

THAT'S GREGORY BESTMAN--THE VULTURE'S OLD BUSINESS PARTNER!
BEATEN TO PULP. AND HIS NECK... BROKEN. WHAT WAS IT THE VULTURE SAID BEFORE? "SNAPPED LIKE A TWIG"?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS FEELING COMPASSION FOR THIS MURDERING ANIMAL!

WELL--NO MORE!
NO MORE!

PARKER--WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING*?! YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR *ME*! YOU'RE--


WATCH *OUT*, YOU IDIOT-- *WATCH OUT!*
PARKER!!

OH, NO.


I...I *TRIED* TO STOP HIM. I DON'T UNDERSTAND... HOW DID HE GET *PAST* ME LIKE THAT. I--
GOTTA... GOTTA GET *DOWN* THERE!
THAT FALL... HE'S PROBABLY HURT... MAYBE EVEN-- NO. *NO!* HE *CAN'T* BE DEAD! *HE CAN'T BE DEAD!*

DON'T WORRY--
--HE'S *NOT*.
HUH?!

SURPRISE!
YOU'RE GETTING SLOPPY, VULTURE--USING THE SAME OLD STATEN ISLAND HIDEOUT!
THWAM!
MAKES IT PRETTY DARN EASY FOR YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN TO TRACK YOU DOWN!
I WAS OUT THERE WAITING FOR JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT TO COME AND GET YOU--BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO RISK PARKER GETTING HURT.
WHEN HE TOOK THAT DIVE, I KNEW I HAD MY CHANCE. CAUGHT THE KID AND SENT HIM ON HIS WAY. WHICH JUST LEAVES--
YOU
AND
ME.
WHAT A WONDERFUL STROKE OF LUCK! NOW I DON'T HAVE TO WAIT ANOTHER MOMENT--
--TO KILL YOU!
I HOPE YOU'VE GOT FAMILY, SPIDER-MAN--PEOPLE THAT LOVE YOU AND WORRY ABOUT YOU! 'CAUSE IT'D MAKE ME VERY HAPPY T'KNOW--
"--THAT THEY'RE NEVER GONNA SEE YOU AGAIN!"

"FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS" CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE!